

# \$23.7 million approved for I-71 project near Kentucky Speedway



A construction project worth \$23.7 million will begin this year in Gallatin County. North of the I-71/KY 35 interchange, the project will widen I-71 to six lanes for 3.2 miles and add a barrier wall. The project will also reconstruct the I-71 interchange with KY 35 at Exit 57. This will include a new bridge on I-71 over KY 35 and replacement of three ramps at Exit 57. The anticipated completion date is the summer of 2008.

"The additional lanes on I-71 and other improvements will help Kentucky's economy," said Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert. "The Kentucky Speedway is one of the country's

premier racetracks. This project will make visits to this facility a smoother ride for Kentuckians and tourists alike."

Currently, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is completing the second phase of a new state route, KY 1039. The first section was opened in 2002. The second section began in 2004 and is on schedule to be completed by summer 2006. The new road will connect U.S. 42 at the Markland Dam to I-71 by the south end of the Kentucky Speedway. The two projects together cost \$29 million dollars to build and will add 6.8 miles and 10-foot shoulders.